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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY Rumania

SUBJECT Frontier Guards (Graniceri)



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1. The Yugoslav frontier is the one on which the Rumanian Graniceri, or "Frontier Guards," today maintain their most vigilant watch. This remains the case, despite the organization of a Rumanian-Yugoslav frontier mixed commission in Oct 1953, to regulate frontier differences between the two countries in a friendly way. The commission even carried conciliation so far as to elect Tito's representative, as secretary general. In a further effort of the same sort, the Cominform has for some time abandoned its attacks on Tito's regime formerly broadcast by Radio Bucharest. None of this, however, abates the mutual distrust of Rumania and Yugoslavia.
2. One important consideration in the strict guard of the Rumanian-Yugoslav frontier is the effort to catch clandestine travelers, trying to escape from Rumania into Yugoslavia. It is no use for them to flee to Hungary. Hence Yugoslavia remains the only hope of refugees.
3. As in many other countries, wide zones adjoining the frontier have been cleared of inhabitants. On the Rumanian side of the Rumanian-Yugoslav frontier, this has been done to a depth of thirty kilometers, not completely, but thoroughly enough to remove every one living there who might, in case of an attack on Tito, or by Tito, prove dangerous to the Rumanian and Soviet Armies. This meant deporting 60,000 persons to the USSR. They were removed with only such property as could be carried in a single bag, and were sent to Soviet Moldova and Baraganu.
4. However, there is a forbidden zone fifty, instead of thirty, kilometers deep along the Rumanian side of this frontier. This zone is entirely under control of the Militia and the Graniceri. Recently some soldiers have been brought in to reinforce the latter. These recent arrivals are posted in regions near the frontiers. They include infantry, engineers, and motorized troops.

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5. Curfew begins in this zone the moment it is dark. Soldiers make the rounds to see that it is observed, and officers check on the soldiers. Patrols are also kept moving at a distance of one to two kilometers behind the border line, according to the terrain.
6. During the summer, defensive bunkers have been constructed in such a way that the Yugoslavs cannot look across the border and see them. There is a control post on the Danube, every two hundred meters. No one is allowed to walk along the river banks.
7. The 9th Graniceri Regiment is located to the south of Turnu-Severin. There is a detachment of Graniceri in a solidly built house in a place called Hinova, opposite Ostromul-Corbului (Corbului Island). This post is in charge of kilometers 911 to 916, on the Danube.
8. The controls on land are still more severe. Points where passage is permitted are cultivated, so as to show any unauthorized footprints. Triple barbed wire entanglements are an additional protection. Then there are three patrol routes which cross and recross each other at regular intervals. At night the Graniceri use watch dogs. Prizes are given to any Graniceri who catch either fugitives trying to get out, or spies trying to get in.
9. The 4th Graniceri Regiment is stationed at Timisoara. The commanding officer here is Major Somesanu. The political officer is Captain Comsa. The executive officer is Captain Dumitrescu.
10. The 3rd Graniceri Regiment is stationed at Oravita. It has a strength of three battalions. Platoons have a strength of between 60 and 70 men. Each platoon patrols for a distance of five kilometers. Source, who is not a soldier, makes no mention of company organization and adds the curious statement that "each battalion is composed of platoons."
11. The Graniceri training camp is at Lugoj, in the Banat. This is both a political and military training center. There is another training center at Rădăuți, north of Moldova. It is towards the south, along the road to Suceava, opposite the recruiting center. All training centers, whether military or political, come directly under the troop command of the Graniceri. The commander at present is Colonel Mihail Boicu, who replaced General Pantelimon Comichel.

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